



Reclamation, City of Shasta Lake Celebrate Shasta Dam, America's Great Outdoors Initiative

Members of the Region's Northern California Area Office recently joined the City of Shasta Lake to celebrate the building of Shasta Dam and to promote the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. Reclamation's float at the 60th Annual Shasta Damboree and Parade showcased the recreational benefits of Shasta Dam, fitting for both the theme of the parade, "Stay and Play at Shasta Lake," and for the America's Great Outdoors Initiative, which encourages the American public to get outside and enjoy the outdoors.

Shasta's Reclamation Guide Team designed, planned and built the float, which featured a model of the dam as its centerpiece, with a family picnicking and fishing near the dam. The mile-long parade route was lined with people of all ages. After the parade, spectators went to a fair in the park with music, food and craft booths.

The annual celebration, held this year on May 7, started as a fundraiser in 1939 for the small boomtown to raise money to complete a school for the children of the dam builders. The Great Depression still held the country in its grip, and the building of the huge dam brought hope for work to many migrant workers and their families who traveled from long distances to secure jobs. With the exception of a few years during World War II, the celebration has been held annually.



Reclamation Guide Hal Taliaferro reels in a "big one" on Reclamation's Shasta Dam float portraying the "Stay and Play in Shasta Lake" theme.



Showcasing picnicking and fishing as recreational benefits of Shasta Dam, Reclamation's float received cheers from the crowd.

From its humble beginnings, the Shasta Damboree has grown into a week-long community celebration to commemorate the building of the dam, and the community that grew because of the workers. As they are fond of saying, they came to build a dam, but stayed to build a community.



Folks "Get Outside" and enjoy the day while watching the bands and floats in the parade.

"I was surprised to see such a large turnout for the parade-- not just spectators, but also the number and variety of parade entries," said Jennifer Mengel, a Reclamation Guide, after participating in her first Damboree Parade. "Spectators lined the streets, cheering us on!"

For more information:
<http://americasgreatoutdoors.gov/>